

OWEN COUNTY

COMMUNITY PROFILE

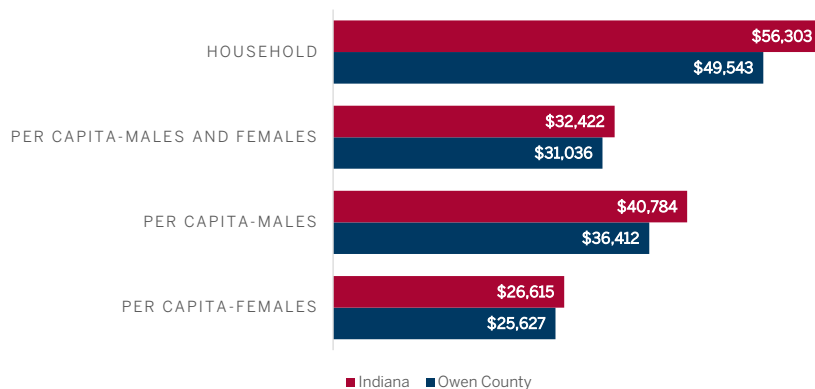
Facts, figures, and things to know about the people and places in Owen County.

Household Demographics

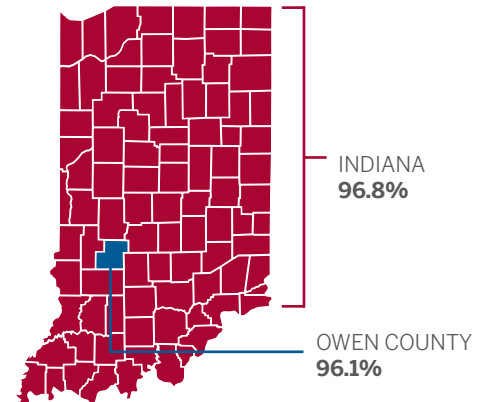
According to population estimates, there are 20,835 people who live in Owen County.¹

The median household income for Owen County is approximately \$6,500 lower than the state average.² There is a notable wage disparity between women and men in the county, with women earning approximately \$10,500 less than men on average. This pay gap is almost \$3,500 lower than the state average.³ The employment rate for Owen County is about the same as the state average, with most residents of Owen County being employed.⁴

MEDIAN INCOME FOR NON-DISABLED ADULTS

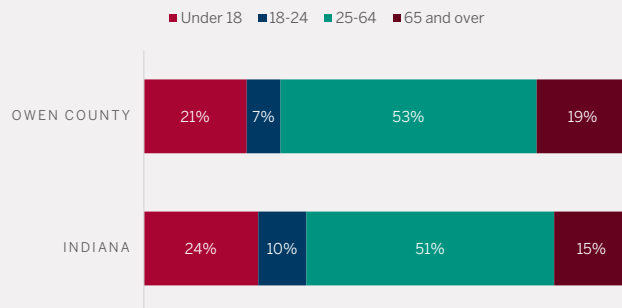


ADULTS EMPLOYED



The median age for Owen County is approximately eight years higher than the state's median age. Owen County has a slightly lower proportion of residents below the age of 24 than the average Indiana county.⁵

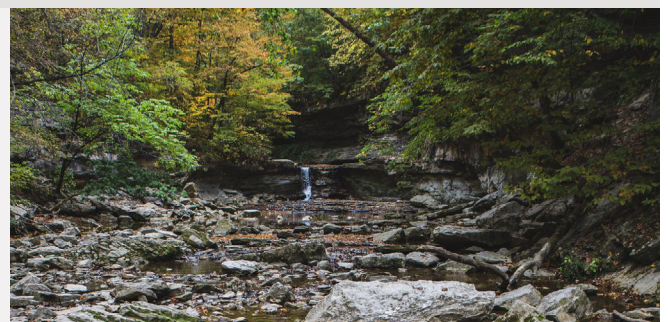
PERCENT OF POPULATION



MEDIAN AGE

37.7
INDIANA

45.2
OWEN COUNTY

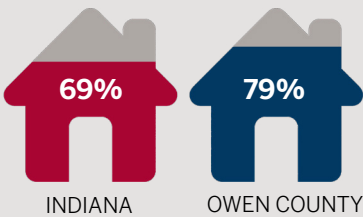


McCormick's Creek State Park is Indiana's oldest state park and was given the official state park title on July 4, 1916. The park is named after settler John McCormick, who laid claim to the area in 1816. Some of the park highlights include waterfalls, a limestone canyon, and 10 trails with varying degrees of difficulty that total 10+ miles in length. Visitors can enjoy campgrounds, an Olympic-sized pool, fishing at the nearby White River, guided horseback trail rides, games at the recreational center, and exhibits on the history of the park at the Nature Center.⁶

Housing

Owen County residents are more likely to own their home than the average Hoosier. Residents also pay about \$130 less in monthly rent payments on average.⁷ About half of the homes in Owen County are 40 years or older, while approximately 41 percent are worth less than \$100,000.⁸ Multi-family housing comprises less than 5 percent of housing options in Owen County, and 14 percent of houses in the county are vacant. About 11 percent of households in Owen County qualify as having a severe housing problem (overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities), which is much lower than the state average.⁹

PERCENT OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS



MEDIAN RENT PAYMENT

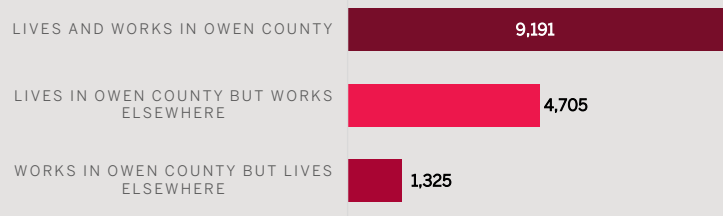


HOUSING CHALLENGES

BUILT PRIOR TO 1980	51%
HOUSES VALUED AT LESS THAN 100K	41.1%
MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING	4.6%
VACANT HOUSING UNITS	13.8%

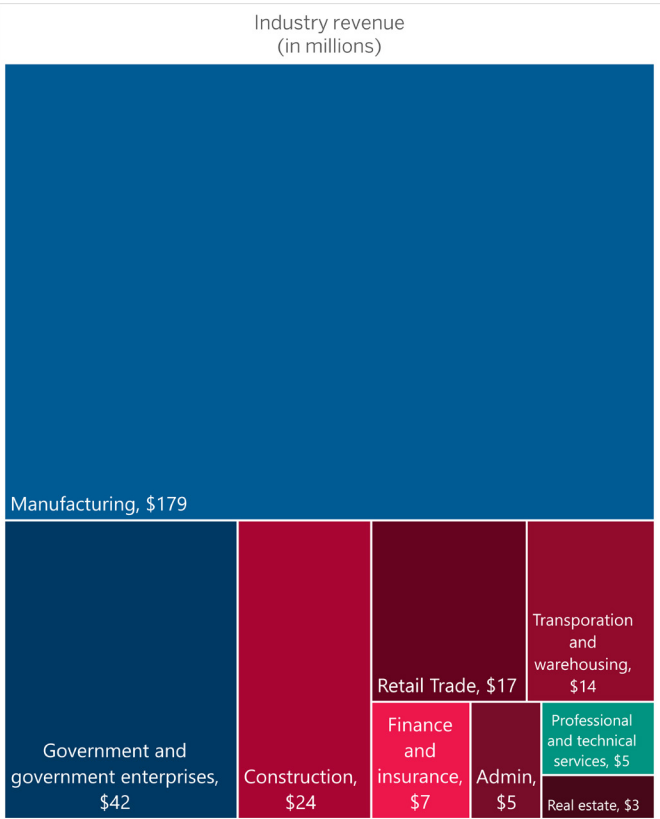
COMMUTING

About 60 percent of Owen County workers both work and live in their county of residence, with over 9,000 people working and living in the county. 31 percent of workers live in Owen County and work elsewhere, and another 9 percent live in a different county and work in Owen County.¹⁰



Industry

The top three industries in Owen County are Manufacturing, Government and Government Enterprises, and Construction.¹¹ The top three major employers in the county are Boston Scientific Corporation, Cook Urological Inc., and Owen Valley High School, all located in Spencer.¹²



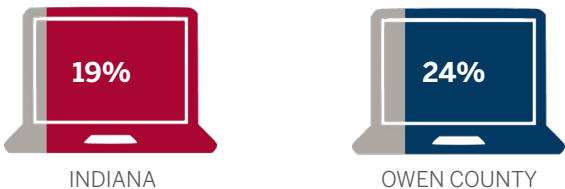
Technology

Access to the internet provides communities with a number of opportunities, from educational tools, to telemedicine, to the ability for local businesses to sell to people around the world. High speed broadband (25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) allows for the most effective use of new technology that links rural communities to resources worldwide.¹³ The median household in Owen County has internet speeds below the definition of broadband internet, and about 24 percent of households in the county have no internet access at all.¹⁴

MEDIAN DOWNLOAD ↑ UPLOAD SPEED (MBPS)

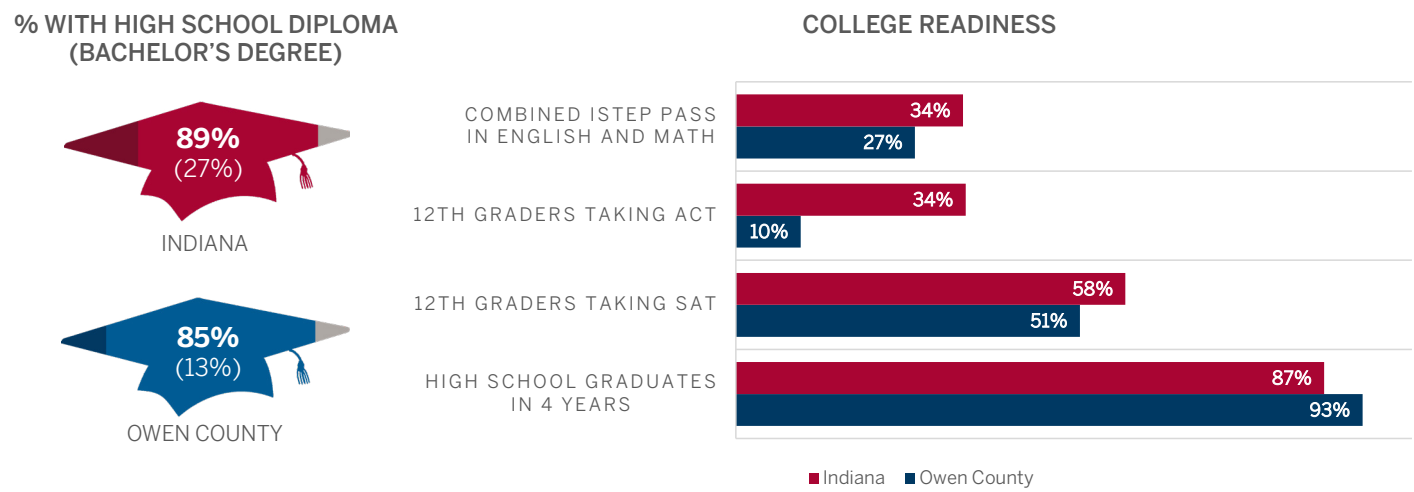


PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO INTERNET ACCESS



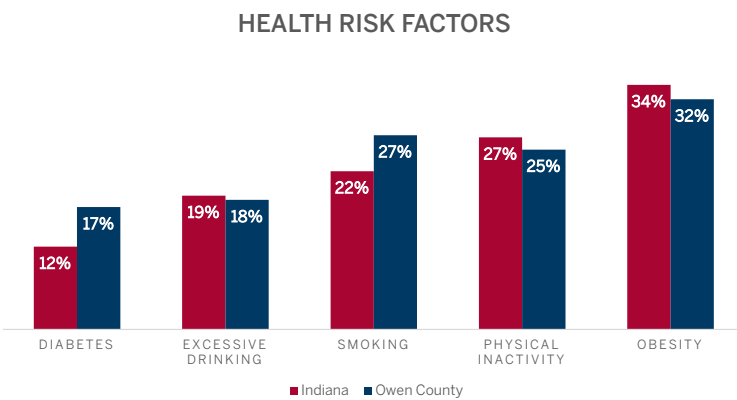
Educational Attainment

Owen County is home to one school district, the Spencer-Owen Community School Corporation. Approximately 85 percent of Owen County residents age 25 years or older are high school graduates and 13 percent of county residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. Both statistics are below with the state averages of 89 percent and 27 percent, respectively.¹⁵ Almost all high school graduates in Owen County complete their degree within four years.¹⁶ In comparison to the rest of the state, students in Owen County are less likely to pass the ISTEP 10th grade math and language arts exams combined, with approximately 27 percent of students passing.¹⁷ 12th grade students in Owen County are more likely to take the SAT than the ACT; about 51 percent of 12th grade students take the SAT while less than 10 percent take the ACT.¹⁸

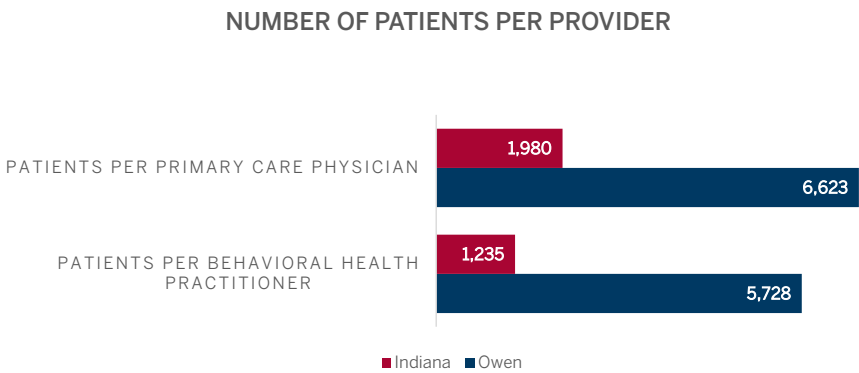


Health

Owen County residents are slightly more healthy overall than the average Hoosier. Health indicators for Owen County indicate that residents are less likely to drink excessively, be physically inactive, and be obese than the state average. Owen County residents are more likely to smoke and be diagnosed with diabetes than the average Hoosier.¹⁹



Health Provider Ratios



Medical and behavioral health providers can help address issues such as diabetes, obesity, smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption, and they can provide assistance to those struggling with mental health and substance use—issues currently facing many Hoosiers. Residents of Owen County have less access to both primary care physicians and behavioral health practitioners than the average Hoosier. In Owen County, there is one primary care physician available for every 6,623 residents and one behavioral health practitioner available for every 5,728 residents.^{20,21}

Highlights



The **Spencer Pride Festival** is the largest rural LGBTQ+ pride event in Indiana, and Spencer is the smallest town in the Midwest with such a large LGBTQ+ pride event. Spencer Pride first opened an LGBTQ+ center in 2016 as a resource for people to gain support and be connected to programs that best serve their needs. At the time of its opening, Spencer was the smallest town in the United States with such a resource available. The festival is typically held on the first Saturday in June and is a family-focused and all-inclusive event that promotes a community of compassion and celebrates people of all sexual orientations.

Tivoli Theater first opened in 1928 and was known for being one of the finest small-town movie theaters in the country. The theater has undergone several restoration projects due to fire damage that occurred in 1981 and structural damage that occurred through natural deterioration in the late 1990s. In 2013, the theater was fully restored to its previous glory, showcasing its old décor, seating arrangement, and overall elegance. Today, the theater puts on family-friendly films and live show productions that are sure to entertain guests of all ages and interests.



The **Owen County Farmers' Market** began in 2008 and has been an essential part of the community since its formation. The farmers market strongly supports local community members and producers, and all foods, goods, and crafts are locally grown or made in the Owen County community. Some of the vendor items that are available include fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, jams, eggs, meats, garden plants, flowers, dog treats, and artisan crafts. Occasionally on market days there are also entertainment, performances, or bands that play during the market hours.

Sources

^{1,2,5,7,8,15}U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates.; ³U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates. Earnings in Past 12 Months (in 2018 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars); ⁴U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019 Local Area Unemployment Statistics.; ⁶www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2978.htm; ^{9,19}University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2021 County Health Rankings.; ¹⁰Indiana Business Research Center, 2019 Annual Commuting Trends.; ¹¹U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2019 Employment and Earnings by Industry.; ¹²Hoosiers by the Numbers: Major Employers for Owen County.; ¹³Purdue University Center for Regional Development, Rural Indiana Stats, 2017 Digital Divide Index.; ¹⁴Indicators of Broadband Need, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, 2021.; ¹⁶Indiana Department of Education, 2019 Public School Graduates and Graduation Rates.; ¹⁷Indiana Youth Institute, 2017 County Aggregates of Indiana Department of Education ISTEP Pass Rates.; ¹⁸Indiana Youth Institute, 2016 County Aggregates of Indiana Department of Education ACT and SAT rates.; ²⁰Bowen Health Workforce Information Portal, 2018 Supply, Characteristics, and Distribution of Physicians.; ²¹Bowen Health Workforce Information Portal, 2018 Supply, Characteristics, and Distribution of Psychologists and Behavioral Health Professionals.; ²²spencerpride.org; ²³spencertivoli.org; ²⁴owencountymarket.com;



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